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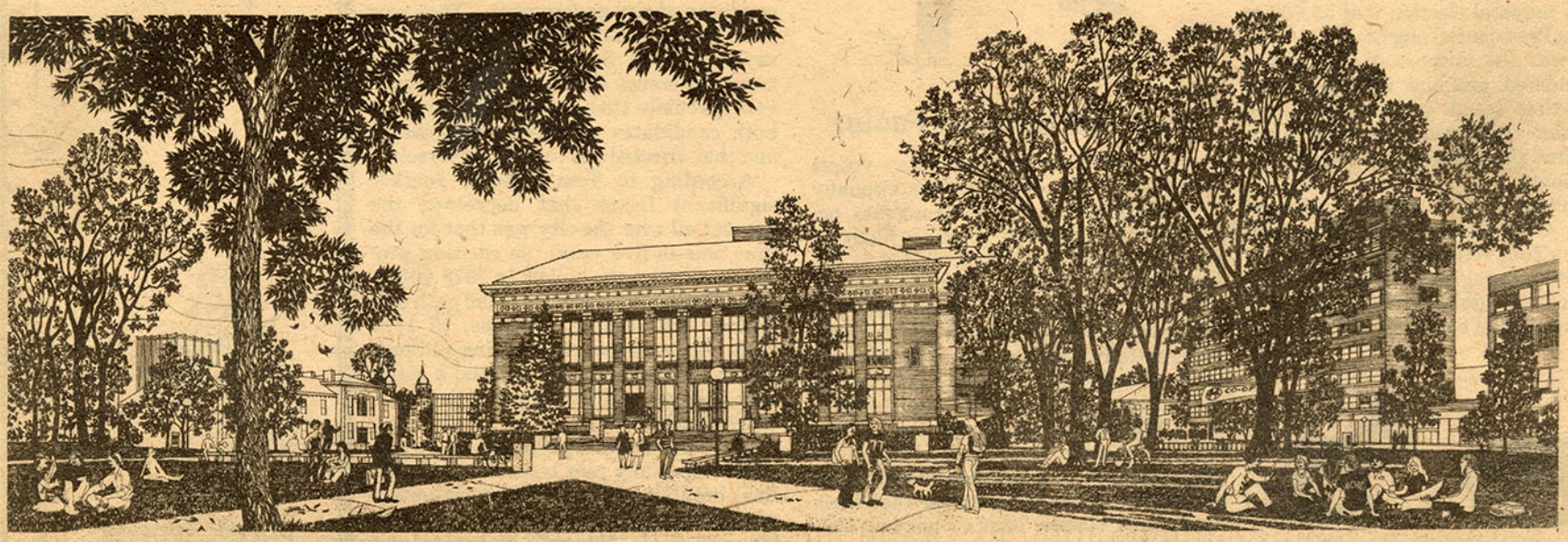
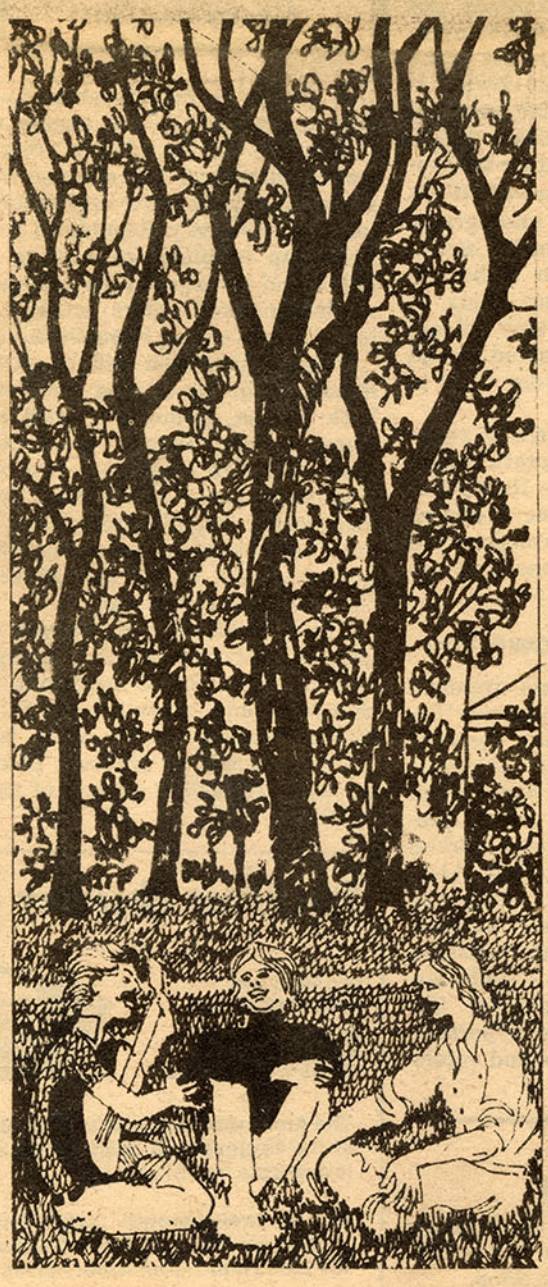
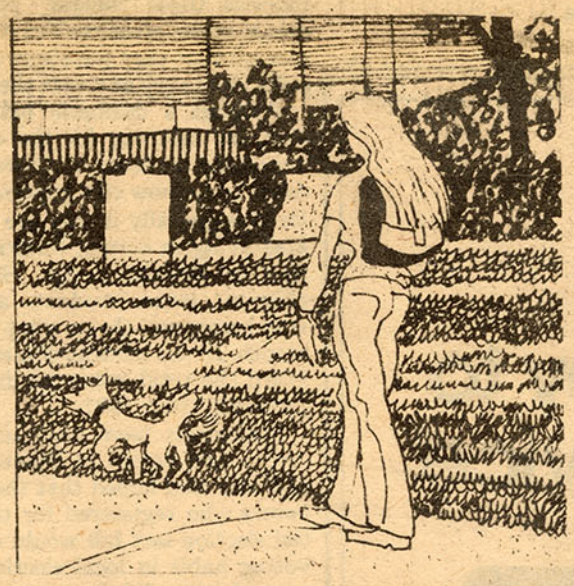
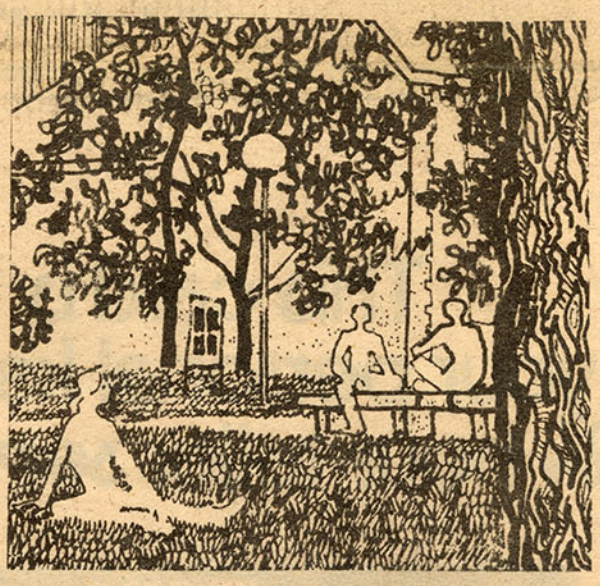








Richard Ahern

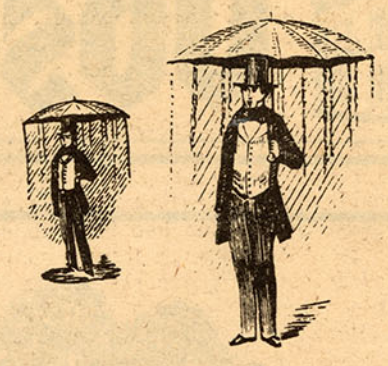
City-wide Apathy Hurts both Parties

The One-Vote Mayoral Race Grabbed All the Headlines —But the Real Story Is the Falling Turnout

AFTER the shock of the one-vote margin in the April mayoral race had passed, after the party strategists had rehashed the results, the big question wasn't about why the races turned out the way they did. None were all that surprising. The real surprise was the low turnout of 21,685, compared to 29,501 in the 1975 mayoral election and 45,000 in last fall's Presidential elections.

Why was the turnout so low, observers wondered, and how will this downward voting trend in local elections, which has continued city-wide since 1973, affect the balance of power in city government?

We talked to two analysts of local politics, Councilman Jerry Bell and Democrat Tom Wieder. Bell is a Republican party strategist. Wieder, a graduate student in public administration, is an avid student of election results.



Rain Not the Only Factor

Of course the rain kept many voters home, no doubt about it. Traditionally that's supposed to hurt Democrats because their supporters are more likely to have irregular voting habits. But in the case of this election, both Republican and Democratic analysts doubt that the day-long drizzle depressed the turnout differentially to help the Republicans. Rain probably discouraged many senior citizens, who are likely to vote Republican. Furthermore, regular Republican voters in some areas may have been overconfident of a Belcher victory and thought with the bad weather that their vote didn't matter. That's what Lou Belcher feels, at any rate.

Voter apathy also contributed to the low turnout. In Gerry Bell's opinion, apathy was caused by the confusing political situation on council during the preceding year. With the 6-5 Republican majority balanced by Mayor Wheeler's Democratic veto, voters were confused over who was responsible for the current condition of city government. "They saw that things aren't in bad shape," Bell says, so they figured it didn't make much difference who won. Other observers speculate that party enthusiasm for both candidates was less enthusiastic, and that affected the turnout adversely.

According to Tom Wieder, another significant factor that depressed the turnout all over the city was that for the first time in five years, no exciting proposals were on the ballot. In 1973 voters faced the highly-publicized bike path and Teltran (Dial-a-Ride) millages. In 1974 there was the $5 marijuana fine and rent control; in 1975 rent control and a child-care millage; and the repeal of preferential voting in 1976.

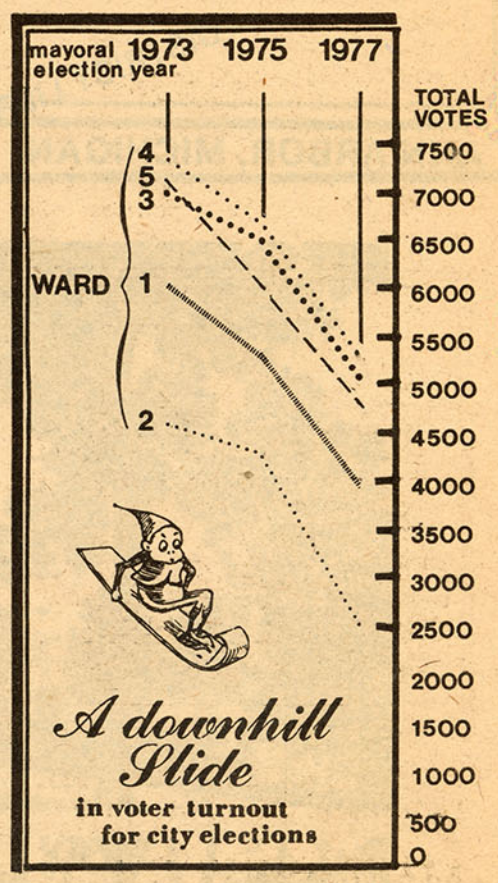
The controversial proposals of former years (especially rent control and the $5 fine) brought out many younger voters who wanted these proposals to pass; likewise these "liberal" proposals got many more conservative voters angry enough that they were sure to get to the polls just to try and vote them down.

Without a dramatic ballot proposal that has meaning for the city's 34,750 university students, it's hard for the students to see how city government affects them, especially if they are undergraduates living in dorms, fraternities, sororities, or student co-ops. So without a clear-cut issue, students are likely to stay home, and that's what they did last month. In the student-dominated Second Ward the total votes fell from 4,310 in 1975 to 2,510 in 1977.

Democrats have been actively registering new voters in Democratic areas, and they had hoped that the 10,000 new voters who registered for the Presidential election last fall would continue the voting habit in local elections. But apparently they didn't.

Republican Vote Down Too

There has also been a less dramatic but steady voting fall-off in heavily Republican precincts, and that concerns Republican strategists greatly. In recent years Republicans haven't done much voter registration in their strong precincts the way Democrats have worked their precincts, according to Bell. Also, he said, "our method of canvassing to determine party affiliation isn't as good as it was nine years ago." (Canvassing results in lists of probable Republican voters which are invaluable for the party's mailings and for the important election-day phone calls to remind voters to vote.)



A change in Republican party structure is planned, so one person will be responsible for the party's voter registration campaign. This summer Bell will supervise a pilot voter registration project in one heavily Republican precinct. Follow-up telephone canvassing in the fall should reveal what percentage of the newly-registered voters actually would lean towards voting Republican.

Voter registration will be extremely important in the coming few years for both parties. Democrats, with a more transient constituency, must continue their efforts to hang onto two of their traditional bases of support, students and renters. Republicans will try to use voter registration in preponderantly Republican areas to get enough votes so they will come out on top.

The freakish one-vote margin of this election is an object lesson to every voter that his or her vote is important. If just that fact alone doesn't result in an increased turnout in the next mayoral elections, it will be dramatic proof that we have entered a period of political apathy. ●

The Cover

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For a twelve-month subscription send $5 to: The Ann Arbor Observer, 502 East Huron, Ann Arbor, 48104.

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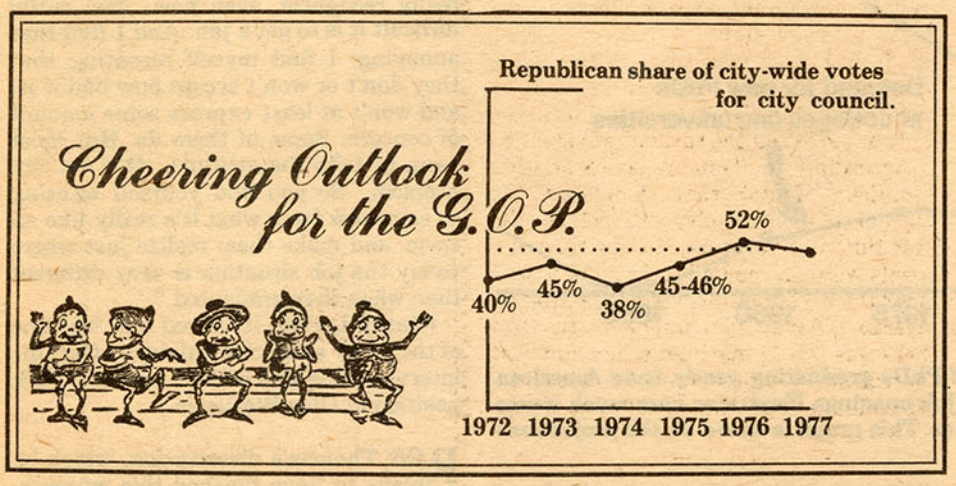
Why the Election Was so Close, And What's in Store in Ann Arbor Politics

Tom Wieder's Interpretation and Analysis

Most politically active citizens get into gear during the campaign and call it quits after election day. But for dedicated statistical analysts or "number crunchers" like Tom Wieder, the fun begins when the results are in, and they can compare this year's percentages and margins precinct-by-precinct with past results. Analyzing and interpreting the results require a logical mind and a good understanding of past elections: the issues, circumstances, personalities, voters' concerns, and weather.

Wieder used to be active in Second Ward Democratic campaigns. Now he's content to play the role of sidelines commentator and Monday morning quarterback. His impromptu debut as election-night sidekick to WPAG newscaster Ted Heusel was notable for its informativeness. We recently spoke with Wieder to get his view of the election and his speculations about the future of Ann Arbor politics.



Wheeler Gains on GOP Turf, But Fewer Students Vote

MAYOR Wheeler actually did better in virtually every non-student precinct, percentage-wise, than in his 1975 victory, Wieder points out. But Wheeler's gains in non-student areas were offset by the tremendous decrease in Democratic margins in all student precincts. In 1975 Wheeler took the largely-student Second Ward with an almost 3,000-vote margin, 3646 to 736. This year, with the big decline in student voting, he won 1799 to 628, a margin of only 1171 votes.

It should also be pointed out that the Socialist Human Rights Party's candidate for Mayor, Diana Slaughter, got 364 votes without spending a dime for her campaign or putting out a single piece of literature. Winning even a third of those votes would have made Wheeler sleep a lot more comfortably on election night.

Wheeler picked up votes even in heavily Republican precincts, compared to 1975. Ward 4, Precinct 2 (Lansdowne, the area southwest of Pioneer High) gave Stephenson 86% of the vote in 1975; in 1977, Belcher's percentage fell to 77%. As the incumbent, Wheeler enjoyed the same name recognition and visibility that Stephenson had in 1975. In 1975 Wheeler was an unknown quantity, perceived by many as a black radical. Two years of exposure to Wheeler's cautious skepticism has caused the public to discard that image.

The qualities that helped Wheeler among independents and Republicans hurt him somewhat among students. In the mayoral candidates' pre-endorsement interviews at the *Michigan Daily*, Belcher impressed senior staff members by talking about doing things for the city, while Wheeler distressed them with cautious comments about holding the line. When the entire staff voted, they endorsed Wheeler easily, but the editorial endorsement certainly didn't generate excitement to interest students in getting to the polls to vote for mayor.

For the first time in recent memory, Republicans campaigned actively in student areas. An enthusiastic group of over twenty students ran a separate Belcher-for-Mayor campaign on campus. Their efforts may have paid off. Although Belcher got fewer actual votes than Stephenson in 1975, he had a much higher percentage of the vote in student precincts. At a time when the student Democratic vote was dropping off sharply from 1975, the Republican percentage gains in student precincts were almost enough to give Belcher a victory.

The 1977 election just didn't offer much to excite students. Appealing ballot proposals were lacking, and Democrats couldn't effectively portray Belcher as a heavy. Stephenson had been an easier target in 1975 because of some intemperate anti-student remarks and a more vulnerable voting record, with unpopular stands on such issues as marijuana, censorship and voter registration.

The student vote is potentially massive but also elusive. With a constantly-changing student population, students must be continually courted through voter registration and party educational efforts. Such efforts demand a high degree of party organization, which is difficult to maintain in student areas because dependable workers graduate or move into other wards in the city.

Student values and attitudes are changing, too. As student concern for social problems lessens, as conventional scholastic achievement becomes more important again, and especially if a self-absorbed good-time social life dominates the campus, it will be harder to interest students in voting in city elections.

Trends Favor Republicans; Dems Need Fresh Agenda

GIVEN the steady city-wide decline in voter participation and the sharp drop-off in student areas, who can benefit from the situation?

Wieder thinks Republicans "have some reason for optimism."

City-wide the percentage of Republican votes in council races has generally been tending upward. In the delicately-balanced swing Fourth Ward Republicans won a majority this year for the first time.

Furthermore, student turnout has dropped enough that the basic, consistent Republican vote may be strong enough for Republicans to maintain a six or seven vote council majority without the lucky breaks they've enjoyed in recent years, such as the unusual circumstances behind Republican Wendell Allen's key upset victory in the First Ward last year, and the liberal-radical vote split caused by the HRP.

Ann Arbor Republicans have certain built-in strengths: more funds and a more stable constituency.

The Democrats, on the other hand, dependent on a constantly-changing university constituency, have to work hard registering just to stay in the same place. They are still recovering from the effects of the HRP, according to Wieder. "In the early 1970's the Democrats moved to the left to cover the left flank. Now that the student vote is smaller and less liberal they have to realize that the city's voting population has shifted back toward the center."

The Democratic party had a clear agenda in the 1960's: control of development, concern for human rights, better public transportation, and safer housing. Today public transit is firmly established, new ordinances and a sluggish economy have subdued rampant development, the human rights and equal opportunity situation has improved, and the general opinion is that even the condition (if not the cost) of housing may be better, Wieder feels. So the Democrats are left without a motivating agenda.

"Without an agenda, how can the Democrats excite people with the basic city services line?" Wieder asks. "Democrats aren't real comfortable with running on fixing the streets."

"I don't think the city has enough dollars to do the things some Democrats would like to do," Wieder continues. "Except for CDBG (federal revenue sharing) there is not much money to take care of social services, and there's not much fat in city hall ready to be uncovered and put to better use. Democrats have got to recognize that this is a time of diminished expectations and gear their efforts to improving the quality of services the city presently provides rather than providing new ones." ●

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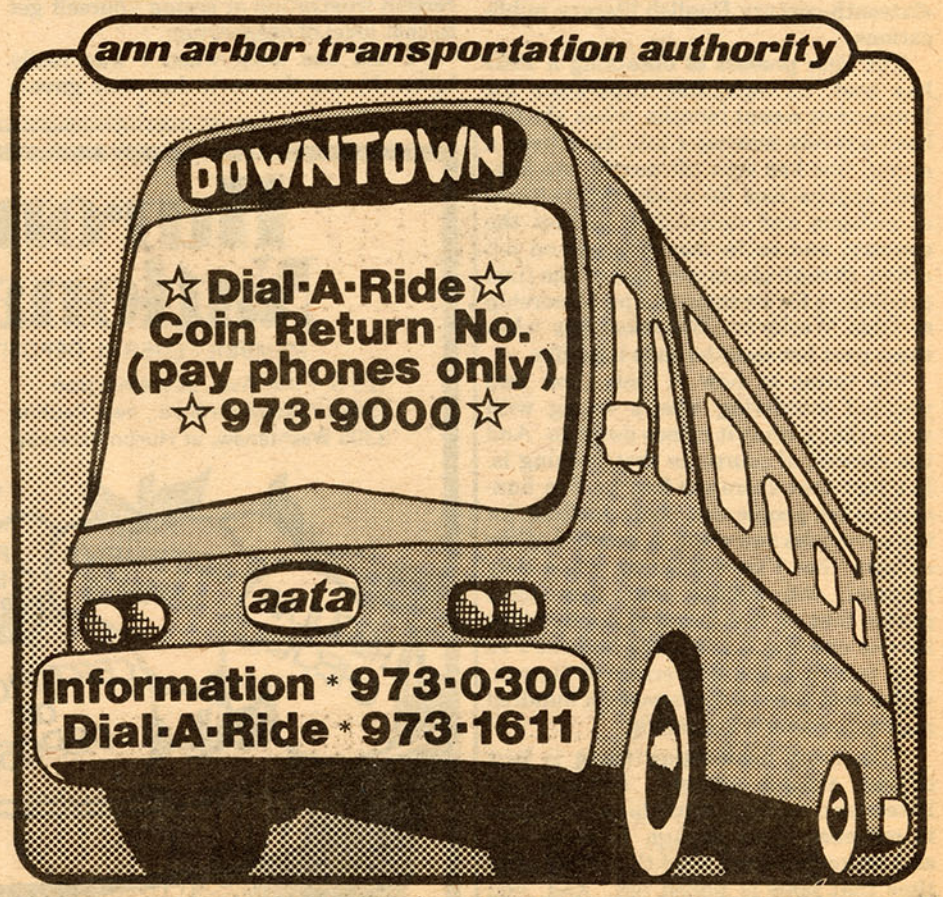


A Very Depressing Experience

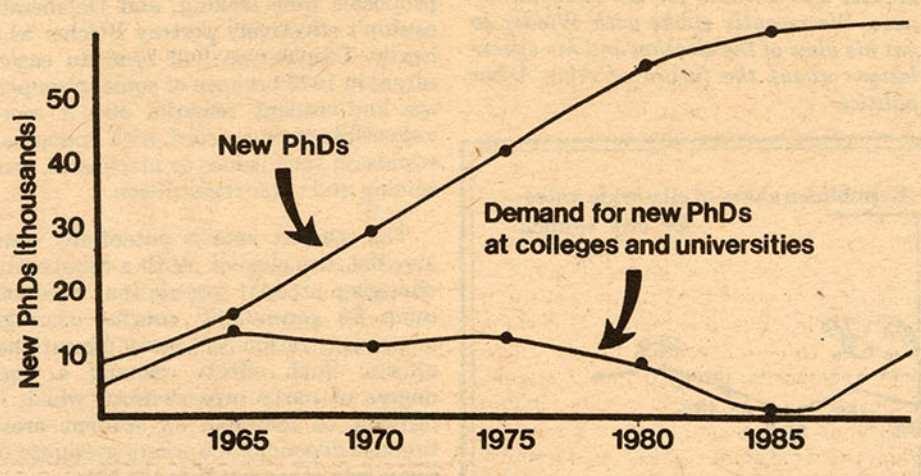
That's what most PhD students in English face when they near graduation and start applying for academic positions. Why then, does Michigan's English Department keep admitting many more PhD students than can find jobs?

THE 1970's have marked a dramatic turn-around for American colleges and universities, a reversal of their dramatic growth of the 1960's. Today, due to declining birthrates following the 1946-1953 baby-boom, college enrollments aren't growing nearly as fast as they did in the sixties. Before long that growth will stop completely.

During the 1960's, as demand for more PhDs appeared insatiable, graduate departments expanded to meet the demand. Today demand for PhDs has diminished greatly in many academic areas (especially the humanities). But many more PhDs are still being graduated than can find jobs.

English departments have been among the hardest hit by the growing depression in the academic marketplace. At this time, there are more than twice the number of the PhDs in English graduating annually than can find jobs. In another five to ten years, the ratio of PhD job-seekers to academic positions in English will get much higher, until obtaining a position in an English department will be an uncommon accomplishment.

A difficult-to-ignore effect of the oversupply of English PhDs is the suffering of those who graduate and can't find jobs. It is an almost inevitably depressing experience to be rejected over and over again—to keep losing out for a position to some other recent or soon-to-be PhD. We talked with several graduates or near-graduates of Michigan's PhD program in English to find out about their job-seeking experiences.



The widening gap between the numbers of PhDs graduating yearly from American universities, and the number of academic job openings illustrates how much worse the academic job market is getting each year. This graph is based on the projections of the late economist, Allan M. Cartter.

Three Job-Seekers

KATHY Loring is now completing her final year in the English PhD program here at Michigan. Her dissertation is titled "Writer and Audience in Elizabethan Front Matter." It is an analysis of introductions to certain types of sixteenth-century English literary publications.

The long process of obtaining a PhD has been an enjoyable experience for Loring, but recent months, when she has been actively seeking a job, have been a strain. She has sent off nearly one hundred applications for academic positions at colleges and universities across the country, and so far has received no job offers, though she is now one of the final candidates for an assistant professorship at Ohio Wesleyan. We asked her what these past few months have been like.

"In terms of how it feels, you find yourself wondering what's wrong with you—that's what it comes down to. And the answer, of course, is that nothing is. It's just that there are four or five hundred other people out there looking for the same jobs you want. A number of the colleges that I've written to, when they respond, will include that they have gotten four or five hundred applications for one opening. I think the highest I've seen was from the University of Hawaii, which said they had received six hundred applications for one opening.

"The most debilitating thing is just sitting around waiting. Sending off letters and getting some hopeful letters in response—just enough to tease you and make you hope, and then time after time that hope is pulled out. And, you know, I've only been at it for six or seven months now. I know some people who have been at it much longer.

"I think that part of the crushing thing about it is that most graduate students are used to succeeding. You get into graduate school because things have come easily for you. Most of us are not used to dealing with failure. That's the hard thing to get used to.

"Personally, I resent having put in all the time, all the effort, and then being in the sinking position of feeling I would grab at almost anything. When I stand back and look at it, I say, 'Look, I could stay out for another year and support myself—I'm an excellent typist—and wait for something better. But there's a certain frustration at seeing yourself get to that level of desperation.

"I had one week when I was really bitter. It was the week that they gave a non-academic job placement conference here at the grad school. I went to it, and I was snarling all that week. When I went there I heard the conference leaders telling us how lucky we were actually in some ways because we had exciting jobs in front of us, and we would be getting into different things, instead of just a nice, predictable academic job. I got so mad I just left and went home and had some coffee. Then I cooled off and went back, and actually I got several useful things out of that conference. But that was the low week for me. It was the week I was starting to get adjusted to the idea that I was going to have to look for non-teaching jobs, too. It takes a certain mental adjustment."

What about the English faculty, we asked? Have they been a source of support? "I resent the fact that a lot of the faculty don't seem to be really emotionally attuned to what we're going through—or even aware of it. Almost all of them had their choice of a number of jobs. One man on my dissertation committee said he had eight or nine offers. That was in 1964. He's a good person. Not the most outstanding person to ever come along. But back then, that was pretty standard. You expected back then if you were any good to have a number of offers.

"I think that a lot of the faculty don't really recognize, even now, how really difficult it is to get a job. And I find that annoying. I find myself resenting that they don't or won't accept how bad it is, and won't at least express some amount of concern. Some of them do. But most seem to take the attitude, 'It's not my problem.' So you find yourself wanting to somehow force what it's really like on them, and make them realize just where today the job situation is very different than when they graduated."

(Kathy Loring, it turned out, was one of the lucky ones. Several days after this interview, she was offered a tenure-track position at Ohio Wesleyan.)

RON Thomas's dissertation, which he plans to have finished this summer, is on Ezra Pound and Latin poetry. He related his recent job-hunting experiences to us:

"I think my class has been the first to see the whole thing coming over our entire four years in the PhD program. People had been telling us how hard it was going to be to get a job.

"When I first started looking, I thought I would find a job. I didn't seem to think for some reason it would happen to me—that I would be one of the unlucky ones. I rather liked my dissertation topic, and I thought my credentials were sound. But I've written now about a hundred and fifty letters and haven't gotten a positive response yet. The closest I've come to getting a job has been an invitation down to a campus for a further interview. But that didn't pan out.

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Kathy Loring, who will soon receive her PhD in English, on what it's like to find an academic job in English these days: "The most debilitating thing is just sitting around waiting. Sending off letters and getting some hopeful letters in response—just enough to tease you and make you hope, and then time after time that hope is pulled out."

MLA (Modern Language Association) convention last December, I thought this was the big thing. The process had been outlined to me over and over again: you send out your initial letter, you get a dossier request from a college, and you get an interview in New York at the convention with the places that are interested in you.

"So I wrote an awful lot of letters. And I got back a fair number of dossier requests. But right up before the convention, I only had one request from a college for an interview. And that's when, all of a sudden, it hit home in a graphic way that something's wrong. I began to realize I might not get any job offers.

"When I found out I only had one interview, I almost decided not to go to the convention. But I finally decided to go. Then, when I got there and went to the outer doors of the Americana, where the convention was being held, I could see that there must have been five hundred people stacked in that lobby, most of them my age—job-seekers like me—standing in line to register. I almost turned around right then and went home.

"But subsequently I learned that you have to look on the convention as the first battle of a long war or siege. I hadn't anticipated that. I had put all my hopes on the convention."

Like Loring, Thomas questions how sensitive the faculty is to his plight. And he wonders whether the selfishness of the English faculty is responsible in part for the glut of PhDs in the job market today. "The English faculty are in a very bad situation in that they need you, the graduate student. You've got to come to their class or their funding gets cut and maybe their job is in jeopardy. But when it comes time for graduation, I guess they necessarily have to instill an element of distance in their relationship with you. My theory is that it's easier when the time comes to kiss you goodby and say, 'Gee, Ron, old boy, tough luck. Let me shake your hand. I hope you make it out in the real world. . . . Next?'

"You know—it's the whole concept of benign neglect. You go through graduate school, and they give you a string of A's, and you end up thinking you've done well. And it turns out it doesn't mean anything."

Thomas thinks one way in which the department could be more responsible would be to get across vividly to those applying to the PhD program how bad the job market is. "I think the most they've done is to begin a policy a few years ago of putting little notes in all initial letters to potential graduate students telling them that the market's tough. But I would like to see a list of the department's records for the past five years or so showing how many PhD graduates from this department now have jobs. If they put *that* in the letter to prospective students, letting potential students know that a lot of well-qualified people are getting nowhere finding jobs, I think you'd find a real dropoff in applications to the PhD program. I think a main problem is that entering students don't *really* know how bad the market is. That's where hard statistics could help."

Thomas wonders if the reason the department doesn't provide these harsh statistics to prospective graduate students is self-serving. "If they publicize their poor placement record, they'd torpedo their enrollment. And if they torpedoed their enrollment, they'd torpedo their own funding. And if they torpedo their own funding, they'd torpedo their own status."

STEVE Schwartz may well hold the English Department's record for persistence in seeking an academic job after receiving his PhD. Having searched for over two and one half years for an academic position, he has sent out over 500 requests for a job. His dissertation topic, "Nineteenth Century Translators of Goethe's *Faust*," is no longer an absorbing interest for him, and his attention has since turned to more abstract theoretical problems in English. Schwartz now has a job as a technical writer for a U-M researcher, but he is still sending out job applications for academic positions.

We asked him if his frustration in finding a job has turned to bitterness. He laughed and said, "Not at all. Despite what anyone tells you, getting a job in academia is almost like stealing. It really is. It's so much better than almost anything you could get on the outside. Especially if you want a lot of time for yourself.

"But the thing is: I could never actually believe that I would get paid to read books. So I wasn't all that dissappointed. I admit I was bitter once—when I didn't get a particular job I had applied for. That was because I knew the person who got that job. I felt, 'My God, if that's what they're taking, what must I be like?'

"In most cases, you simply don't know why you don't get a particular job. And after you've been rejected time and time again, you start wondering whether this profession really wants you."

Like Thomas, Schwartz sees the self-interest of faculty members as an important cause of the oversupply of English PhDs, but he sees such self-

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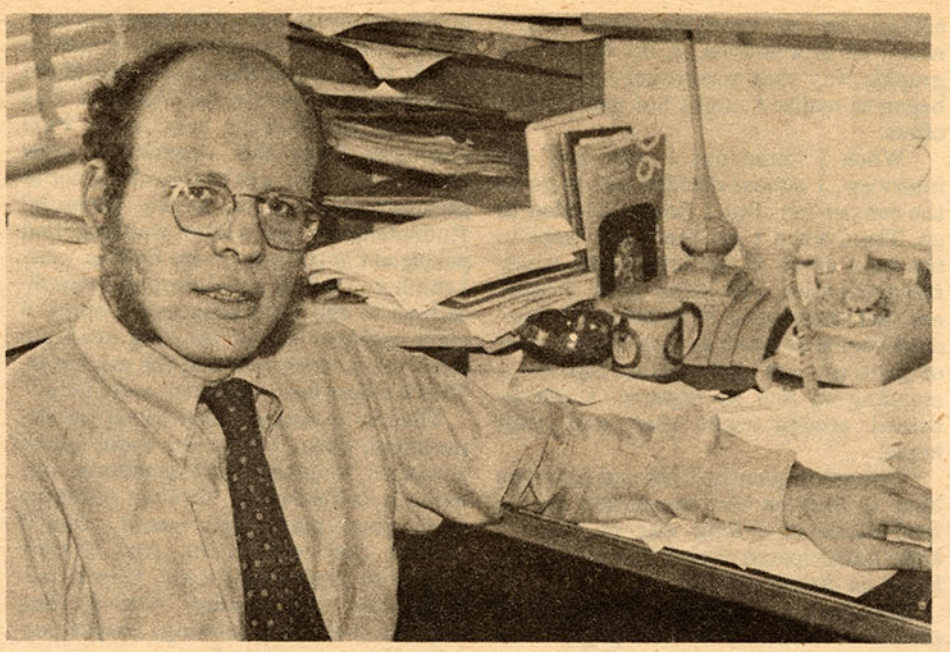
interest as simply a fact of life. "If you reduce enrollment in the PhD program, what are you going to do with all those professors whose job it is to teach graduate students? I can't see the faculty working against their own self-interest like that. The department's graduate admissions policy may be unhealthy for graduate students, but as far as their own interests are concerned, they're taking precisely the right attitude. It's an attitude of: 'Screw you, Jack. I've got mine.'

"But the thing that really bothers me is this: essentially we graduate students are the overachievers, the people who have always been encouraged academically. School has always been easy for us, and we've always been rewarded. When we get into a graduate program, I think the problem is this: each of us will view ourselves as the exception—the one who will get one of the few available jobs."



Richard Bailey, chairman of the English graduate programs: "To take the group of PhD students we are admitting this year, I would be surprised if more than half of those people actually get jobs in 1982. But we make a great effort—and we were one of the first departments to do this—to inform applicants to our program of the job market."

The Chairman's Perspective

RICHARD Bailey has been chairman of the English graduate programs since 1972. He offered us this further perspective on the situation facing PhD students in the English Department:

"I think the situation is certainly very difficult for people in English. I would say the only people in worse shape are the people who are getting PhDs in foreign languages.

"Last year, we had about 25 graduating PhDs seriously looking for jobs, and of those, I believe nine found academic employment. And you have to keep in mind that a good number of those nine who got jobs only received terminal appointments—jobs that will end in one to three years.

"Furthermore, a lot of people are not finishing the PhD program in English, so our completion rate is going way down. Rackham has put out some statistics on employment patterns of students who actually got PhD degrees, and these statistics suggest that the picture is pretty good. But what these figures ignore is that the actual percentage of students finishing the program has gone down."

Bailey outlined the history of the declining market for English PhDs: "From our experience here at Michigan, our enrollment peaked for concentrators (undergraduate English majors) back in 1969. We have suffered an enrollment decline of English majors ever since.

"The consequences began to be felt about 1972. That was when people began to talk about the problem of finding college-level teaching jobs. It was then that we began to get some pretty good statistical projections on the demand for PhDs in English based on the demographics."

Bailey pointed out how many colleges and universities have taken unfair advantage of graduating PhDs in recent years: "I want to emphasize how a lot of schools are using this situation in ways that strike me as immoral. A lot of regional universities are now able to hire people from outside their region. With the job market so tight, they can hire people whose credentials as scholars are much stronger than people they previously had hired. For example, I happen to have had a student now teaching at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and he says that what they're doing there is imposing a kind of publish or perish standard that never was applied before. What's more, they'll have people teaching five courses and at the same time they expect all kinds of publications. Of course, that makes it extremely difficult for new PhDs trying to get tenure there.

"Another practice is terminal appointments. For example at the College of William and Mary three years ago they hired four or five people in the English Department, including one of our graduates, on three-year terminal appointments. Those people are now being terminated. Period. Now, this is a policy which has been followed for a long time at schools like Harvard and Yale, but certainly not by places like William and Mary." Bailey pointed out that it is often harder to get another academic job once you have been terminated than it is for a person just obtaining a PhD.

How Many to Admit?

BY 1972, Michigan's English Department came to recognize that the products of its PhD program were going to have less and less luck finding employment as the years went by. The consequence of this realization was a lively (some say bitter) controversy within the department over whether or not the number admitted to the PhD program ought to be drastically reduced to reflect the prevailing as well as future demand for English PhDs in the marketplace.

A minority of the faculty, the "pragmatists," argued that it is wasteful for the department to spend five to seven years preparing someone for a profession in which no job will be available. But the views of the majority of the faculty reflect a "laissez-faire" position.

William Ingram is one faculty member who holds this "laissez-faire" view: "My position is that we have a moral obligation to tell students when we admit them to graduate study that the likelihood is that they will not get jobs. But once we have done that, we must then treat them as adults, and if they want to come to graduate school anyway, I think we have to let them.

Ingram continued: "I see the attitude some people have—the attitude that you mustn't let people into the graduate program if when they get out they aren't going to be employable—I see that as terribly paternalistic. That's telling people that they cannot go to school because we cannot get jobs for them. I don't see that as our function at all. Our function is to educate people who want to be educated. And if they're content to come knowing there isn't any job waiting at the other end, then we are morally obli-

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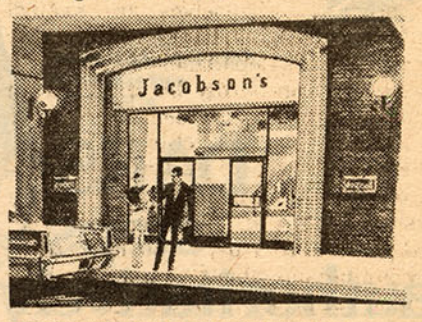

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gated to let them come."

After spirited debates among the faculty, a compromise was reached whereby the size of the program would be cut to what was seen by most faculty members as the minimum size permitting a seminar-based PhD curriculum. As explained by Bailey, "About 1973, we started restricting admissions to the PhD program. We decided that between 15 and 18 is the minimum number we need to have a viable program—to have enough graduate students so that you can have reasonably specialized graduate courses. It also becomes arbitrary to pick between applicants below that number.

"So what happened was that, roughly, in 1972 we admitted 30 new students, and by 1976, we were aiming at 18. And we're aiming at 17 or 18 new PhD students this year.
actually had 20 enroll. Then last year, 1976, we had 21, although we were aiming at 18. And we're aiming at 17 or 18 this year.

"I think everyone is concerned about the problem of getting positions for our PhD graduates, but we've had, shall I say, an argument in the department about whether or not PhD admissions ought to be based on the job market.

"To take the group of PhD students we are admitting this year, I would be surprised if more than half of those people actually get jobs in 1982. But we make a great effort—and we were one of the first departments to do this—to inform applicants to our program of the job market. Then we let them—the students who apply—make the decision. There are many students who will tell you that their primary purpose is not to get a job—that they wish to get a PhD because it's there. They like doing what they're doing and want to do it some more. In fact, the students resent a quota that's based on the job market if they feel they're qualified. I think they're correct."

How Realistic Are Graduate Students?

IT appears that a major reson why the English Department continues to admit many more students into their PhD program than will find jobs is because the students themselves are against limiting graduate enrollments. Many members of the department feel that the department can hardly be criticised for overadmitting PhD students if the students themselves don't object.

Perhaps, however, students aren't being totally frank about their reasons for pursuing the PhD. As one first-year PhD student told us, "You have to be very ambiguous about your reasons for being in the program. Just so you won't sound crazy, you have to say, 'I'm doing it for personal fulfillment.' But probably most of us think in the back of our minds, 'Yes, I'll be the lucky one who will get a job.' "

English faculty member Walter Clark: "I feel very strongly that [the department's] policy is a form of collective self-indulgence. . . . I see an unwillingness on the part of the faculty to rethink graduate education."

Another first-year PhD student in English we talked to, although fully aware of how much worse the job market for English PhDs is going to get, said: "Still, like everyone else, I assume eventually I'll find something in English—some job somewhere."

English professor Marvin Felheim, who favors drastically cutting graduate enrollemnts in English, explains the apparent self-deception of English graduate students this way: "Let me point out why the English department probably lets in more students than they can place: the pressure from students themselves is enormous. The students will maintain to you with a straight face that they're not interested in jobs—they're only interested in 'an education.' And then, of course, the minute they get their PhD they *are* interested in jobs. Then they feel cheated and depressed and angry. That's a very real part of the problem, I think.

"What happens, I believe, is that once students have their bachelor's degree, the pressure for many of them to go on to graduate school is enormous. And then, with all the competition to get in, once they gain admission, they feel somehow that they've got it made. The accomplishment of getting into graduate school seems to be more important to them than the serious problem of what they're going to do six or seven years later when they graduate."

One of the significant issues in this controversy over size of graduate enrollments in English is whether there is typically a real benefit to an individual who spends five to seven years to get a PhD in English, but does not go on to assume an academic position. We asked English professor John Aldridge whether he thought the English PhD had other major benefits than being a job-ticket: "Absolutely. For so long we've had to see the PhD as preparation for university teaching. We've seen it in pragmatic terms, without, perhaps, giving enough emphasis to the benefits in themselves that can accrue from this kind of study. It seems to me that there's a humanizing, a deepening of intellect, a deepening of feeling, and so on, which comes from engaging ideas, engaging literature."

A younger English faculty member offered a more directly hedonistic justification for pursuing the PhD in English these days: "It's a matter of lifestyle. Some people are big on preparing for the future. Others live more for the moment. I think a lot of English graduate students are living for the moment. They enjoy literature, and most of them enjoy being teaching fellows. So a lot of them figure: this is what I'd most like to do, so I'll do it. And when I finish, if I don't find a job, I'll do something else."

A Colossal Waste?

SUCH justifications for pursuing a PhD in English in this day and time are appalling to Walter Clark, probably the most fervent member of the pragmatist camp on the English faculty. "I'm very suspicious of those 'humanizing' arguments for being in the PhD program. I wouldn't question that one is a somewhat better person for having spent the time pursuing the PhD, but one is a little better and one spends a *lot* of time and energy."

In Clark's view, obtaining a PhD in English without then getting a job is a colossal waste, both to the individual and for society. "You know, six or seven years is perhaps twenty percent of one's productive life after graduating from college. That's a staggering amount of time to throw away."

Clark questions the motives of the English department for continuing to enroll more students than can find jobs. "I feel very strongly that this policy is a form of collective self-indulgence." He sees as part of this self-indulgence the reluctance of the faculty to re-allocate their responsibilities if the PhD program were drastically cut. "I see an unwillingness on the part of the faculty to rethink graduate education. If we reduce the program, a lot of things would have to change. But collectively, I think we are wearied at the thought. For one thing, it would mean that some of us who are now teaching graduate seminars would not. Without the stimulus of graduate-level teaching, we'd have to find a way to maintain the intellectual vitality of younger and middle level staff. I think we can do it, but it would mean a radical revision of our attitudes and our way of life."

At this time, and with their students' blessings, it is a revision more drastic than the English Department is willing to make. ●

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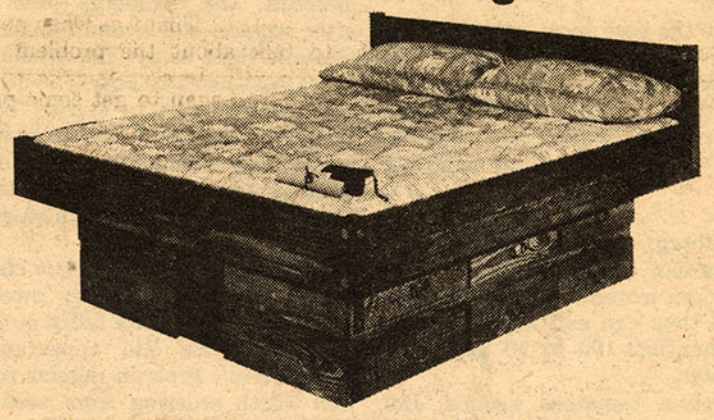

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Rocket *Lima Beans* *Shallots*

Jan Longone likes rocket, a perenniel that provides tangy salad greens from April through November and can't be purchased in the store.

Emma Wheeler chose lima beans for their versatility and high protein value.

Shallots are a gourmet delicacy that Jim Saalberg grows easily.

Gardener-Cooks Pick their Favorites

MOST garden vegetables can easily be had fresh-picked in season at the Farmers' Market, so you grow them yourself to save money, or because you enjoy gardening. But some specialties can't be found dependably, or they cost too much, and other favorites like corn and asparagus taste a lot better when eaten just after they're picked from your own garden.

What are the very most valuable products of a home vegetable garden? We asked three experienced gardner-cooks to choose three easily-established vegetables or herbs they would plant in their gardens if they couldn't plant anything else.

JIM Saalberg, along with his wife Ellen, garden on a big scale. They haven't bought frozen vegetables for five years, and they can and freeze enough produce from their 100' by 50' garden to last all winter.

Italian plum tomatoes headed Jim Saalberg's list. These pear-shaped tomatoes, sometimes called Roma tomatoes, have much more meat and less juice than salad and eating tomatoes, so they're far superior for tomato sauces and other cooking purposes. The flavor is richer, too. Jim buys his plants at the Farmer's Market. They're grown like other tomatoes but they store longer and tolerate frost somewhat better because they contain less water.

Corn. "There's nothing like growing corn from your own garden," says Jim. When he goes out into the garden to pick it, the water is already boiling on the stove. For home freezing corn at its sweetest, the Saalbergs pick it right after supper, shuck and blanch it, and freeze it right away. The whole process takes less than two hours, so little of the corn sugar turns to starch. Since the Saalbergs can and freeze so many vegetables, they plant early varities of corn in order to beat the big rush of other summer crops like tomatoes which also have to be canned.

"Country Gentelman" is a choice old-fashioned variety of very sweet, very tender white corn now fallen out of favor because of its odd appearance. The kernels don't grow in regular rows. It's well worth ordering from seed companies.

People aren't the only ones who like fresh corn. Jim is convinced that raccoons can smell it when it's coming ripe. They eat bites out of the cobs in outer rows, and the only way to stop them seems to be with fences or dogs. Raccoons may nibble on every ear of corn in a small garden, so for insurance it's better to plant a larger patch.

Shallots are delectable little bulbs which, according to New York Times food editor Craig Clairborne, "are an almost ideal blend of mild flavor and aroma. In effect they possess . . . the best traits of onion, garlic, and scallions." Though their retail price puts them in the luxury category, Jim says they're exceedingly easy to grow. "Twenty-five or so bulbs will give you ten pounds of shallots. They grow like garlic and each clove turns into a cluster of four to eight shallots."

JAN Longone, as a noted student and teacher of gastronomy, and proprietress of the Food and Wine Library (a bookshop), is interested in the history and practice of different cuisines. Her three choices are herbs that can't always be purchased fresh.

Basil, one of the chief seasonings for tomatoes, is Jan's first choice because fresh basil leaves are also a chief ingredient for her favorite quick meal, spaghetti with pesto, a protein-rich sauce made of basil and nuts.

PESTO GENOVESE

Wash and dry enough fresh basil to make three cups of leaves. Put the basil leaves, one clove garlic, ¼ cup walnuts or pignoli (pine nuts), ¼ cup butter, ¼ cup olive oil, ½ cup Parmesan cheese, and salt to taste in a blender. Blend it two or three minutes until the pesto has the consistency of a thick puree. Toss the pesto with the hot spaghetti, sprinkle with extra Parmesan cheese, and serve right away.

(If you don't have a blender, you can chop the basil leaves with a mortar and pestle and pound them together with the nuts and garlic into a paste. Gradually add the olive oil and butter.)

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Rocket (also called roquette, rucola, arugola, or arrugue) is a rather bitter salad green something like spinach. Jan and her husband Dan like it straight as a salad. Rocket, a perennial, is quite easy to grow. Once established, it comes up very early in spring and lasts through fall until November or December. As older leaves are picked, new ones come up again. Sorrel is a similar green that grows the same way. It can also be used in salads and in soups. These prolific, dependable but little-known garden greens are well suited to small gardens and lazy gardeners.

Coriander is grown for its unusually-flavored leaves as well as for its spicy seeds. It's sometimes called cilantro, or Mexican or Chinese parsley. Fresh coriander leaves are widely used in Indian, Mexican, and Chinese cooking; the little pieces of green floating on top of Chinese soups are coriander. The seed is a main ingredient of curry powder. Craig Claiborne suggests using the seeds in chilis, cream cheese, and cottage cheese. The proprietress of the Raja Rani Indian Restaurant at 1133 East Huron, Loveleen Bajwa, grows coriander in a small garden behind the restaurant so she'll have plenty of fresh coriander leaves to chop and use as a last-minute flavoring and garnish for chutneys, curries, and many other dishes.

EMMA Wheeler has a garden that over the years has grown into what might be considered a rich peasant's farm in some cultures. Emma's intensely-cultivated acre is 17 miles southeast of Ann Arbor in Whittaker. She and her husband, Ann Arbor's mayor Albert Wheeler, have been gardening there for many years. Today Emma and her daughter Alma Smith do all the planting, weeding, and cultivating after son-in-law David Smith completes the rototilling. The three Smith children have their own plots too, where they learn about growing plants.

Lima beans were Emma's first choice after tomatoes and corn, which Jim Sallberg had already chosen. "They're a splendid source of protein, and they can be prepared in many different ways," Emma says. She likes them boiled and dressed with sesame oil, in a tomato sauce, baked, or in bean soup. Combined with rice, most kinds of beans make a complete protein the equivalent of meat or eggs. They can be dried or frozen. Both the large Burpee butter bean and the small Henderson bush bean are in the Wheeler garden.

Summer spinach (also called New Zealand spinach or Malabar spinach) withstands the summer heat, unlike true spinach and lettuce which bolt to seed in hot weather. Emma likes summer spinach because it's a reliable green vegetable all summer long. She uses it fresh in salads, cooked or creamed like spinach, stir-fried in Chinese dishes, and frozen for winter use.

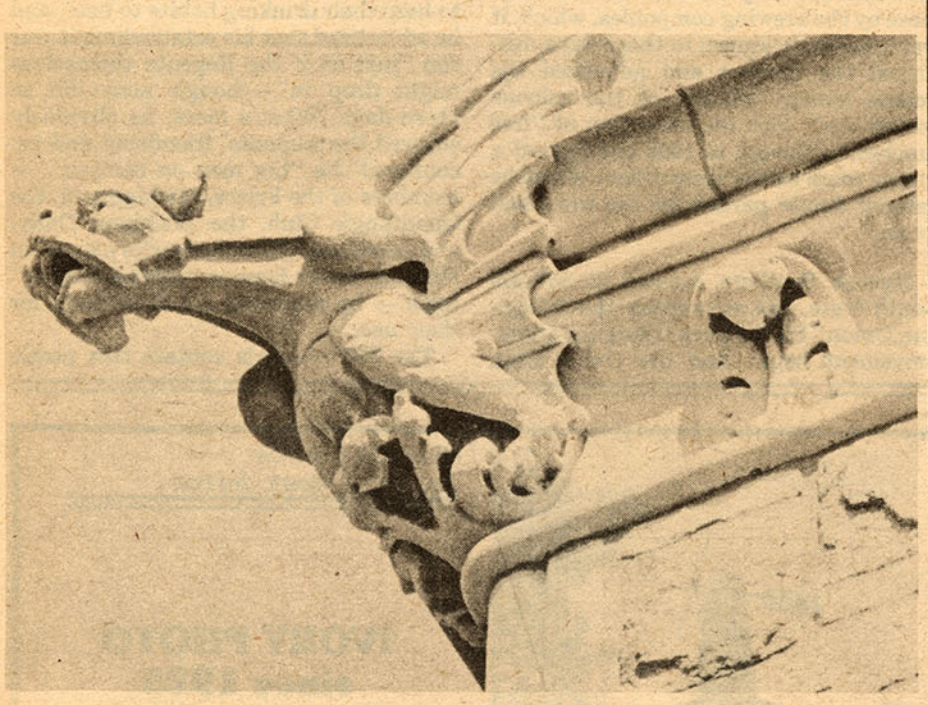
Zucchini, that superabundant garden favorite, was also chosen for its adaptability. Emma likes spears of raw zucchini with dips and sliced zucchini rounds sprinkled with grated cheese and broiled as hors d'oeuvres. Zucchini is used with nearly limitless combinations of cheese, onions, green peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, and rice in many satisfying Mediterranean dishes. And it makes a quick bread that's very popular with the Wheelers' grandchildren either toasted for breakfast, or for dessert with fresh fruit and whipped cream on top.

ZUCCHINI QUICK BREAD

Blend together 1 cup oil, 3 eggs, 2 cups grated zucchini, 2 cups sugar OR 1¾ cups honey, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 3 cups flour, 1 teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon baking powder, 1 tablespoon cinnamon, 1 teaspoon soda. Add ½ cup nuts, dates, or rasins. Bake at 325° for one hour. Makes two loaves.

Planting times: Shallots and rocket tolerate cold and can be planted early in spring as soon as the ground can be worked. The others should be planted when the danger of frost has passed (May 15 or after). ●

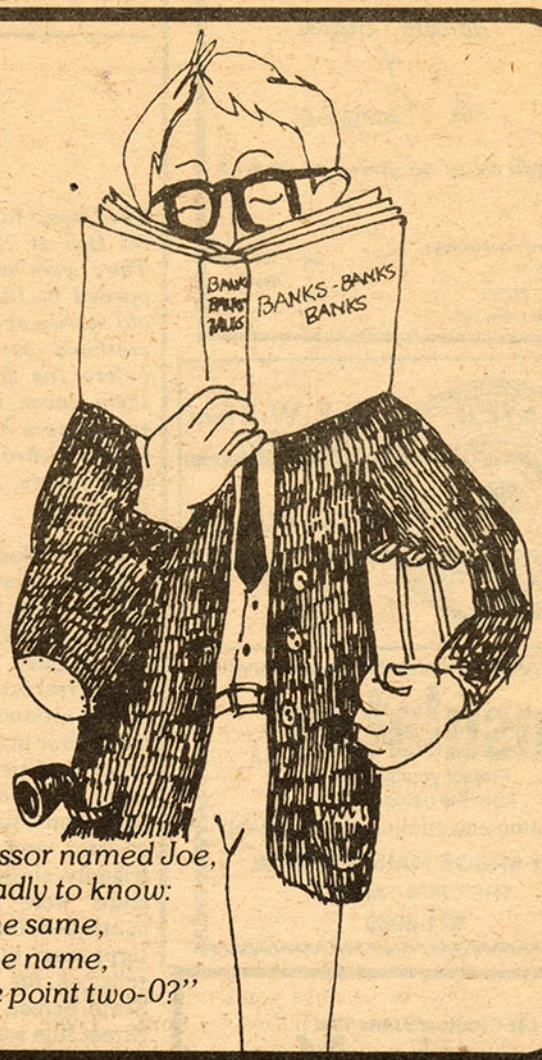
Test Of the Town



By BOB BRECK

What is the subject of this photo? If your correct answer is one of the first two entries to reach us, you can win a record album of your choice from Liberty Music Shop, 417 East Liberty. Mail a letter or postcard with your name and address to Test of the Town, Ann Arbor Observer, 502 East Huron, Ann Arbor 48104. No special delivery letters, please.

Last month's Test of the Town was unintentionally tricky. The photo of the ventilator grate with the Woolworth "W" design was printed upside down, so it looked like three "M" 's. Nevertheless, Peter Beal and Frederick Boul identified it correctly and won albums from the Liberty Music Shop. Two such grates are on the former Woolworth's store, now a La-Z-Boy furniture store, at 214 Main Street. ●



There was a professor named Joe,
Who wanted so badly to know:
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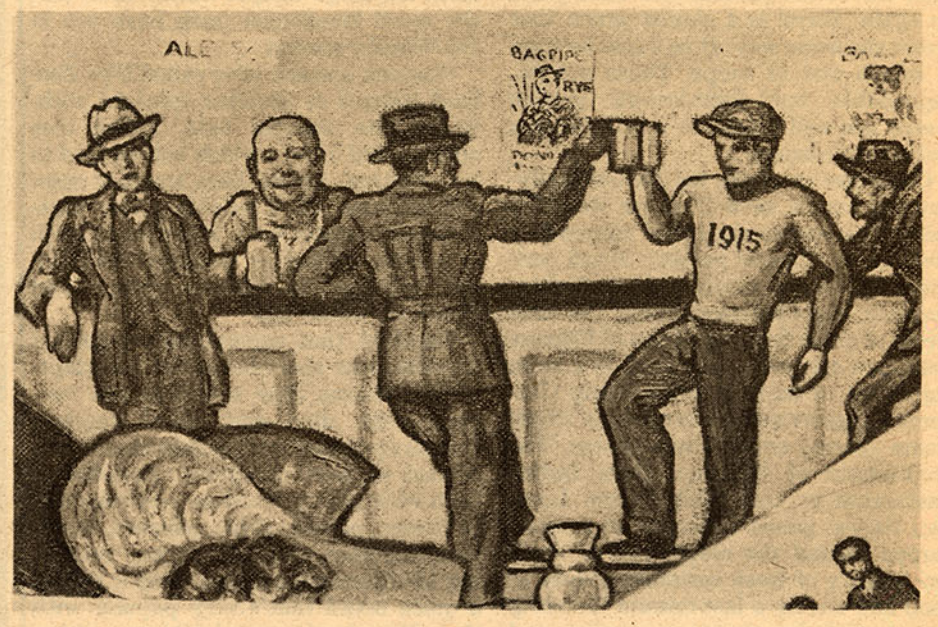
College Hangouts in Old Ann Arbor

"Back to Joe's and the Orient"

The Castor family has operated the Pretzel Bell at 120 E. Liberty since 1944. They were on the scene when it first opened in 1934, and they've heard the old stories about the male students' recreational establishments in the days before the forces of temperance shut them down. During the last few years the Castors have pieced together an impressive chronicle of the P Bell and its antecedents, which Mrs. Castor has put to paper.



Joe Parker encouraged athletes and student leaders to recreate at his place. In this 1929 painting of bygone college days, Joe is the rotund figure (second from the left) presiding from behind the bar.

Joe Parker's, the Orient, and Huston Brothers—those names may seem vaguely familiar to you, as though you've run across them sometime in the distant past. Those venerable "For Men Only" recreational establishements blossomed around the turn of the century, a lively time in this college town. Many new honor societies and cultural organizations were being developed on campus, the Michigan Union movement was arousing student and faculty enthusiasm, and friendly class rivalry and the old team clubs were growing into University-controlled intercollegiate athletics. Enterprising businessmen were devising schemes for student entertainment on State Street, and west of the Division Street line separating wet from dry Ann Arbor there were thirty or more saloons where the student men could sit around in chairs, smoke cigars, razz each other about their Ypsi girlfriends, sing their songs, and talk with the men of the town about the latest happenings of the day.

It was an era of deep attachment and loyalty to the Alma Mater, and the effervescent feeling and spirit at Michigan was captivated in an unparalled song-writing activity. One famous song still sung today perpetuates the names of two of these establishments: Joe's and the Orient.

"I Want to Go Back to Michigan," cherished among Michigan's heritage of songs was written in 1913 by an unknown author and composer.

I want to go back to Michigan.
To dear Ann Arbor town;
Back to Joe's and the Orient,
Back to some of the money I spent.
I want to go back to Michigan,
To dear Ann Arbor town;
I want to go back, I gotta go back
To Mich-i-gan.

Oh, Father and Mother pay all the bills,
And we have all the fun
In the friendly rivalry
Of college life, hooray!
And we have to figure a helluva lot
To tell what we have done
With the coin we blew at dear old
Mich-i-gan.

Joe Parker's famous College Saloon at 204 South Main Street and the Oriental Bar at 109 North Main were two rather dark pub-like places "west of Division," each with a seating capacity for about sixty people. Their furnishings were simple and unpretentious, and while typical of all such places in Ann Arbor, they were hardly what we think of today as the plush "Gay Nineties" saloons. Their sparse and spartan style may have been influenced by the student trade, but more by the brewing companies, which, it was commonly known in those days, furnished the fixtures and advanced the license money. Neither of the saloons served food, with the exception of "free lunches," although in 1906 Joe opened a dining room on the second floor where he catered dinner parties for the town and gown.

Huston Brothers, located at 307-309 South State, was, so to speak, the "Michigan Union" for the boys before the Union movement began and the Union Club House was purchased on State Street. It was a billiard and bowling parlor elevated to the rank of a student center by tickers which brought in news of out-of-town athletic games. Huston's had billiard tables on the street level and bowling alleys on the second floor. Photographs of track, baseball, and football teams added interest and college spirit. The only purchasable items were candy and cigars.

The men who operated these places differed in their ambition, their ideas, and their personalities. Joe's popularity was largely due to Joe himself. He was a picturesque figure, often called "Diamond Joe," who sat up rules which the student patrons dared not to violate. He preferred to keep their drinking habits to beer, and he advertised that his establishment was run "just as if the Regents themselves might drop in"—though none did in those days. What's more, he obviously enjoyed the students' friendship and encouraged the "big men on campus" — members of the Friars, Michigamua, the Quadrangle Club, the Michigan Daily, and, of course, the athletes who played on Fielding Yost's famous "point-a-minute" team — by reserving his back room for their use.

The Friar records contain this poetic

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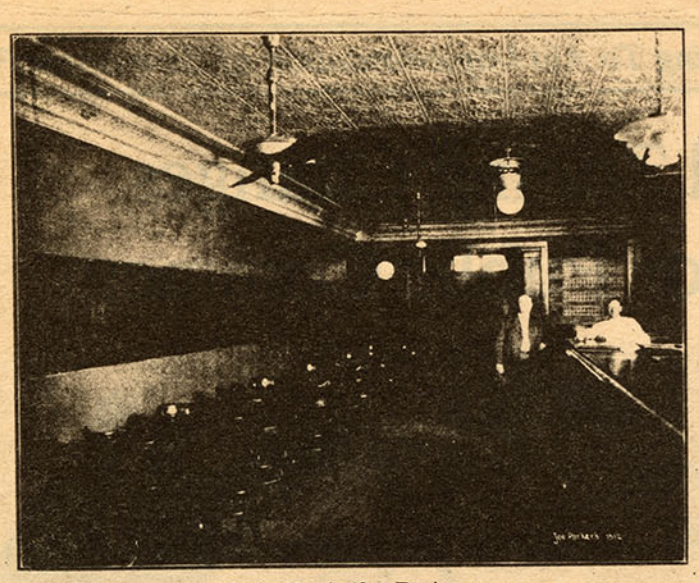

Joe's Ready for Business

Carved tabletops lined the walls of Joe Parker's College Saloon on Main Street, but otherwise the decor was austere.

tribute to Joe's:

The sweet delights of college days
There's no good Friar knows
Who has not watched the dancing moon
While walking home from Joe's.

When Alfred J. Paul and Jacob Gwinner opened the Oriental Bar, they named their place for the building in which they were located, the Oriental Building, so named because in the early 1840's the third floor was the first Masonic Hall in Ann Arbor and the meeting place for Oriental Lodge No. 15. The Orient never gained as much popularity with the students as Joe received, and it was more commonly frequented by men from the town. But it did obtain fame with the song. Some historians venture to say that the Orient was included because it rhymed best with "some of the money I spent."

Each of the Huston Brothers was "one of the boys," and they attracted students more as peers than paternal figures. All of them studied at Michigan: Irvin (Cy) '00-'02; Corwin '01-'03; and Roscoe, who received his A.B. in '02 and L.L.B. in '04. Although they did not participate in college athletics, they kept tab on those who did. Their personal sport interest centered around billiards and bowling. Cy and Corwin were expert players, and though Roscoe concerned himself more with the affairs of the business, any one of them were delighted to challenge the campus lads to a game. The greatest ego deflator came when Don Stark, Huston's manager, proved he could score better with his one arm than the students could with two.

IN the second decade of the twentieth century the winds of change began to blow, and the old places would never be the same again.

Huston Brothers was now having to vie for popularity with the Union Club House on State Street which had been opened for use in 1907. With the mounting enthusiasm and money being raised for the construction of the new Michigan Union on the same site, the Houstons knew their years were numbered. For this reason, the brothers began anticipating a move to Detroit where eventually they opened a billiard and bowling emporium called the Recreation Club.

Changes were taking place at the Orient as well. By 1913 Alfred Paul, then the sole owner, had sold his business to George A. Schaibel who altered it into a billiard parlor. The carved tables and chairs were stored in a back room.

And down at Joe's the building which had housed his Famous College Saloon for nearly twenty years was falling to the wrecking crew. It was replaced with the modern structure for the Kresge Five and Ten at Main and Washington.

The sentiment for Joe's old place is described by an alumni, DeWitt C. Millen, who visited it for the last time in 1912.

"I sat in Joe's the last week in June with some of the old grads around me. As we talked of the old times a few years ago, we looked on the walls, at the table tops that were carved while in college by the live boys of the campus. There, before me, was Willie Heston, the best football halfback that ever came to Michigan; then Neil Snow, the most popular athlete on the campus in the bygone years. For the young man in college or the old grad that has been away fifteen or twenty years, it brings back a flood of great times, many great stories, thousands of football plots ..."

From Main Street Joe moved to 200-206 North Fourth Avenue. The building which housed his second venture, one of the oldest still standing in the downtown section, survives as the Peters Hotel. Joe named this place the Catalpa Inn from the catalpa trees that once lined the Ann street side. Thereby he dropped his image as a saloon-keeper in favor of restauranteur and hotelkeeper.

The strongest wind of change for Joe Parker and other saloon owners came on December 19, 1914. On that day a State Supreme Court case between Lawrence Damm, a saloon-keeper on Washington street and the People of the State of Michigan upheld the legality of a Michigan Constitutional Law that Ann Arbor officials and the proprietors had obviously ignored. The law stated that it was unlawful for any establishment or its agents "to sell or give to any student in attendance at any public or private institution of learning within this state any spirituous or intoxicating liquors, except when prescribed by a regular physician for medicinal purposes." I quote from the Northwest Reporter,, "It was said, and is true, that the effect of the legislation was to deny to adult students privileges enjoyed by other adult citizens, and to deny them during the school year rights and privileges which they may enjoy during vacation." However, the jury returned a verdict of "guilty" for Mr. Damm, adding "without knowledge or intent," for serving certain students at the University of Michigan. The decision gave new meaning and effect in Ann Arbor.

Many of the local saloons began evaporating after this court case. The state prohibition amendment of May 1, 1918, in fact, was not a dramatic phenomenon in this university town, for it came at a time when enlistments left Ann Arbor largely a city of women, children, an older men.

– Clint & Helen Castor

NEXT MONTH: Joe's final days and the birth of the Preztel Bell.

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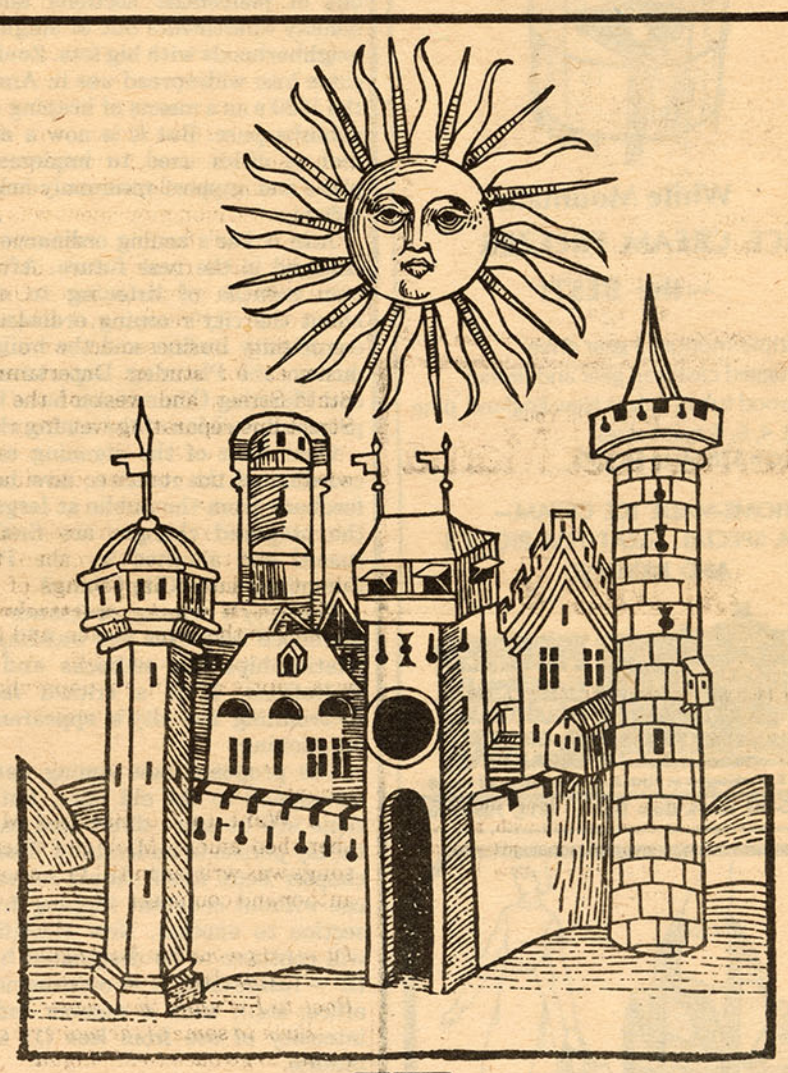

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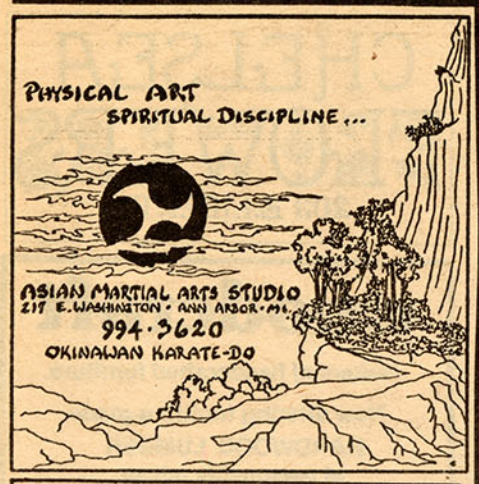

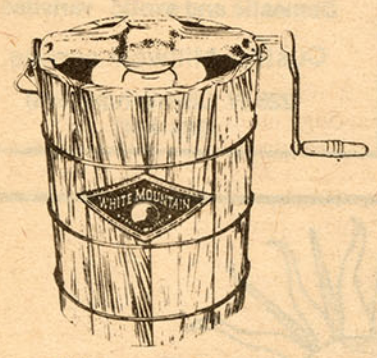

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New, Flexible Downtown Zoning To Aid Implementation of Downtown Plan

Proposed Zoning Changes Are Ready for Public Comment

ZONING—it's the way a city can legally prescribe what uses can be made of a given piece of land. Ann Arbor has 29 zoning classifications in all, and each piece of land in the city has certain defined uses and certain permissible intensities of use.

The point of zoning, in a nutshell, is to make the structures and land in any given part of the city serve compatible functions. Zoning keeps industrial plants out of residential sections and high-denisty apartments out of single family neighborhoods with big lots. Zoning first came into widespread use in America in the 1920's as a means of keeping affluent suburbs pure. But it is now a strategic tool of cities used to implement city plans and support commonly-held social values.

Ann Arbor's zoning ordinance will be changed in the near future. After eighteen months of listening to opinions about the city's zoning ordinance from community leaders and the building industry, the Planning Department staff and Planning Commission have issued a proposed revision of the zoning chapter.

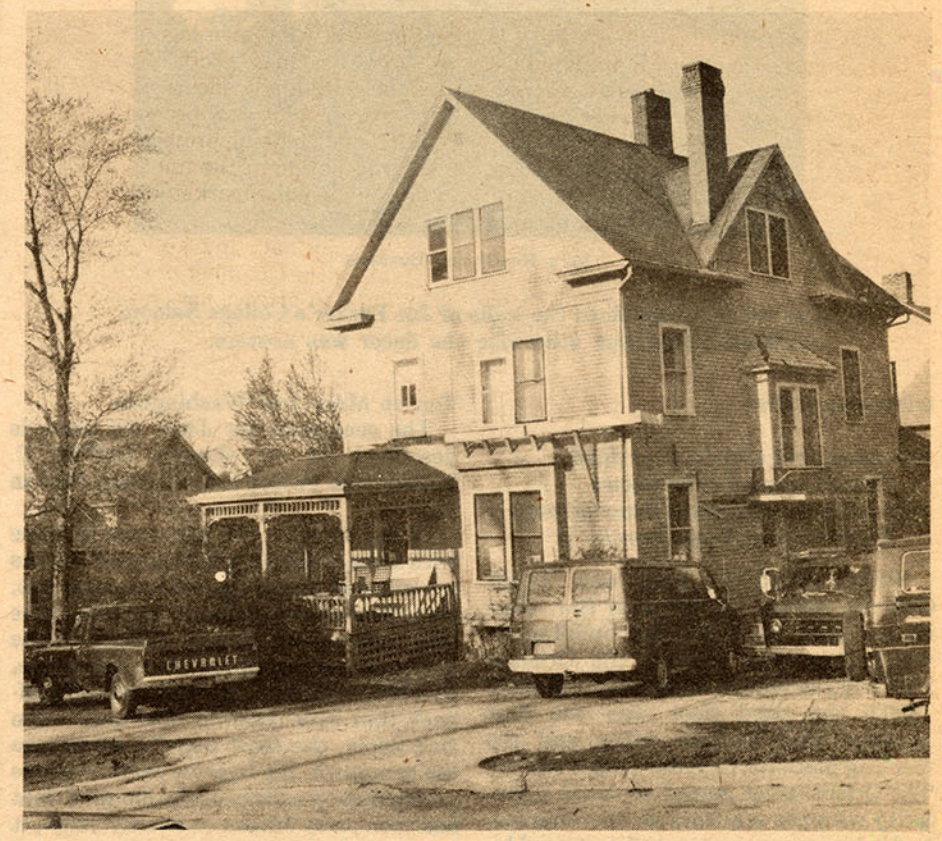
Gene Katz of the planning staff has coordinated the revision; now he wants feedback from the public at large before the proposed changes are finally discussed and adopted by the Planning Commission and City Council.

The city's zoning ordinance defines permitted land uses and building-to-site relationships like setbacks and height limitations. It is a critical factor in determining the city's appearance and functioning.

The proposed new zoning categories correspond to the old ones, but definitions will be more direct and easier for the lay person to understand. The zoning chapter book itself should be easier to use without constant flipping from one section to another. New classifications will continue to be designated by letter (R = residential, C = commercial, O = office, etc.), with a number indicating intensity of use from less (1) to more intense.

Proposed zoning classification changes attempt to solve land use and intensity problems that advisors' sources mentioned most frequently.

• **Problem: The present R4C student housing district** zoning allows for a high intensity of use (60 dwelling units/acre) in an extensive area around the university. When originally created in 1963, the zone was expected to result in more new construction of student housing caused by large-scale removal of old houses for larger apartment buildings on combined lots. That happened in part, but many property owners found and continue to find it more profitable to convert existing houses from single-family to multiple family. "I found that a lot of people, including those who live in R4C areas, were upset at this situation," Katz said.



The proposed zoning changes would make apartment conversions of single-family houing on small parcels of land more difficult. In the past, high-density conversions have created parking, trash disposal, and maintenance problems in neighborhoods zoned R4C.

"What you get is bad because more people are living in a house than it was originally designed for. When a former single family home is turned into five or six apartments, the result is more cars, more rubbish, and less interest in the care of the property."

• Proposed solution: A sliding scale of allowable density would permit a relatively low density on single lots, with increased density if several lots are combined into a larger parcel for new construction. The effect is to make conversions of single-family houses more difficult. Existing conversions would be allowed to continue as non-conforming uses. Owners' requests to add new apartments would have to be approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

• **Problem: The office zoning designation** O is now permitted for areas large enough to accommodate large office buildings. This means in some areas (on the corners of major arterial streets and neighborhood streets, for instance) a small professional office would be outlawed although it might be desireable where a large building would not.

• Proposed solution: a new professional business (PB) district to allow corner offices without allowing a building any larger than the surrounding residential structures.

• **Problem:** As **downtown** continues to be the focus of development interests, conventional zoning categories become inadequate. A mix of shopping, residential, commercial, and studio-workshop uses is considered desireable. According to the Downtown Plan, downtown development should strengthen the existing character of different parts of downtown. Furthermore, the advisory role of the city's Historic District Commission has not been extended to many downtown properties generally considered historical. With no formalized role in the planning review process, eleventh-hour crises continue to occur.

• Proposed solution: a flexible zoning category SD for special downtown districts with provisions for mixed uses. To enhance downtown as a pedestrian environment, permitted uses will be restricted to those dependent on a large volume of foot traffic. Other lower-traffic uses like offices could be allowed through negotiations with the city only if the developer agreed to provide some pedestrian amenities like trees, awnings, arcades, benches, etc. A ten-foot landscaped setback would be required on Liberty between Fifth and Division to retain the landscaped character of that block, now ripe for development. A procedure to establish a clear role for the Historic District Commission in the planning reveiw process is proposed.

Details of the proposed changes are available from the Planning Department, third floor City Hall, 994-2800, upon request. Gene Katz welcomes the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes with individuals and groups before public hearings and Planning Commission and City Council action takes place. Public hearings are scheduled for May 26 and June 2. ●

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Downtown Notes

The big development in April, of course was **the stunning ban** imposed by a circuit court judge **on all new construction requiring any kind of sewer hookup** into the city's overloaded sewage system. The ban covers all kinds of construction that involve any drains into the sanitary sewers, ranging from major new construction like the U-M Law Library addition and senior citizens' housing projects down to home projects that would add a toilet or wash basin to existing houses. Even new drinking fountains are prohibited.

Four years ago some residents of the expensive Landsdowne subdivision south of Pioneer High had filed a class action suit against the city for contributing to the pollution of the Huron River beyond allowable limits. (During peak periods of flow the city had, in fact, dumped raw sewage into the river downstream from the city.) Landsdowne residents wanted to block construction of a multiple-family apartment complex to be built at the end of South Seventh Street.

A Washtenaw circuit court judge, Robert Fink ruled in favor of a total ban on all construction requiring any kind of sewer hookup. If upheld, it could last from three to five years until the city's new sewer plant is finished. The State Court of Appeals first lifted Fink's ban, then reinstated it. But one Appeals Court judge was absent when the ban was reinstated, and the city is now preparing legal briefs hoping for a new ruling, which could come as late as June or July. Already the construction season has been nipped in the bud; many observers had considered it the most promising season in years both for quantity and quality.

Consequences of the ban are immense and potentially long-lasting

- cutbacks and layoffs for perhaps 3,000 building trades workers
- a severe blow to proposed senior citizens' Housing projects
- continuation of the unhealthy tight rental housing market which insures high rents
- a lengthy halt and loss of momentum for the Chamber of Commerce's efforts to attract new research and industrial development to expand the job market and increase the tax base

Ann Arbor, like scores of other Michigan cities including Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo, has been caught in a bind caused when environmental standards were raised before sewer plants (which take years to be built) could catch up. The state, aware of this situation, has not prosecuted, though over 100 Michigan cities and towns have violated parts of their sewage discharge permits. Ann Arbor's sewage plant construction was further delayed by the city's long, drawn-out fight to avoid being forced to join the regional Super Sewer. (Ironically, the city fought the Super Sewer because it wanted to keep the Huron River cleaner for downstream communities by expanding its own treatment plant rather than pouring partially-treated sewage into the river for final treatment near the river's mouth.)

The Landsdowne suit and the court rulings have singled Ann Arbor out for what local officials consider unduly harsh treatment. The judge himself has found that no health danger exists.

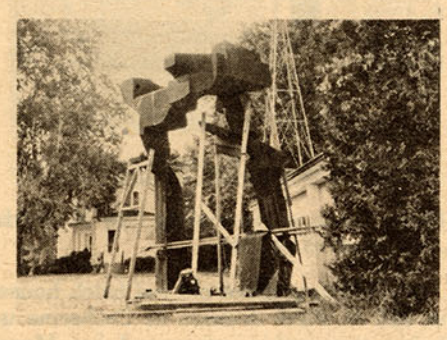
"It's like sentencing a person to life for driving five miles an hour over the speed limit," said one critic of the ban. "There's no relation between offense and punishment."

•••

The "sculpture park" (proposed for the triangular space now occupied by Detroit Street where it intersects with Catherine and Fourth Avenue) has been funded with $20,000 of CDBG federal revenue-sharing money. A committee of **Ann Arbor Tomorrow** conceived the sculpture park project. Committee member Clarence Roy, a landscape architect, is donating his services in preparing a site plan. The CDBG funding pays for paving only. Existing street and sidewalk resurfacing has to be torn up and a new sidewalk-level surface laid.

The first plan called for concrete pavement; council-people and neighbors have suggested a softer-looking surface like brick which would cost much more. They also want more trees and ground cover. Ann Arbor Tomorrow Director Carol Sullivan is responsible for lining up contributions to cover the cost of the park's trees and benches.

The sculpture, David Heberling's monumental 18-food piece made of weathering steel, won the 1975 Downtown Arts Competition.



The small triangle at Detroit and Fourth will be expanded into a little park with benches, trees, and this 18' sculpture by David Heberling.

The sculpture, David Heberling's monumental 18-foot piece made of weathering steel, won the 1975 Downtown Arts Competition. It is already paid for.

The small piece of Detroit Street south of Catherine makes for a confusing intersection, and the Department of Streets, Traffic, and Parking had already tentatively approved plans for closing it. The proposed park reinforces the Downtown Plan which calls for pedestrian improvements in the Farmers Market area. No parks exist there now.

Site plan approval by the Planning Commission and City Council are the next hurdles the park must pass.

The corner of Liberty and Ashley before the foreground billboard

•••

There's a natural dropoff just west of Ashley Street which allows a lovely view of the Old West Side. For years that view of greenery and old architecture has been obscured by billboards with distracting commercial messages. Now two of those **downtown billboards** are gone. Last year **Mark Hodesh**, owner of **Hertler Brothers** garden store at 210 S. Ashley, purchased the parking lot at Ashley and Liberty, upon which two of the billboards sat. Then the lease held by billboard firm Central Advertising ran out, Hodesh said he wanted to get rid of the signs, and Central offered to raise its rent for the space from $15 a month to $30 and finally to $100. Hodesh refused and said he wanted the signs and supporting structures removed by spring. Each month he reminded Central of its commitment, and by the first days of April the billboards had indeed been removed.

A new exit ramp now leads from the rear of Hertlers' into the parking lot. Within two years the lot will become a landscaped multi-use area for parking, public recreation, and possibly outdoor sales.

Remaining downtown billboards include the Haabs Restaurant sign on property owned by the heirs of the late Mayor Brown; the Black Velvet billboard on top of the Main Party Store, two boards on the side of Schlenker Hardware, and signs alongside the Ann Arbor Railroad tracks at West Liberty. Now that the state of Michigan owns the railroad, hopes among members of the West Side Neighborhood Group are high that those billboards can be removed soon. A city ordinance prevents erection of new billboards, but getting rid of the existing ones takes time, persistence, and a sense of civic pride on the part of property owners.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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Downtown Notes
[Continued]

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Gallery One, at 113 S. Fourth Avenue, is **Claire Spitler's** 11-year-old art gallery, in Findlay, Ohio, and recently transplanted to Ann Arbor. Spitler started out as an art collector and gallery-goer who became so engrossed in the work of producing artists that she changed the upstairs of her Victorian house in Findlay into a gallery. Her mix of contemporary art with family antiques is meant to show how the art can look in a domestic atmosphere. Gallery One's new quarters is on the totally redesigned ground floor and stone cellar of a Victorian commercial building renovated by interior designer Estelle Schneider.

Each month through July Gallery One will display works of five of its regular artists to introduce them to Ann Arbor. Beginning in August, one-man shows will be the rule. Spitler believes in concentrating on one-artist shows despite the extra trouble and expense they create because they offer the artist a chance to assemble and review a significant sampling of his or her work and learn from it, while the public has the opportunity to judge the scope and depth of an artist's work. Gallery One handles ceramics and textiles as well as paintings and sculpture.

•••

Bathsheba, the new bath shop in Kerrytown, features bathtubs, toilets, and other bathroom fixtures like you've probably never seen before. Among them: a handpainted and glazed washbasin in a deep-blue floral pattern; a recessed brown tub in a raised redwood platform; a fluted cobalt blue vitreous toilet, and a bathtub-shower in the round, with towels and shelves inside protected by a sliding rounded panel. So far the round tub and redwood platform have attracted the most attention, according to manager Julie Frank McNeil, and the surprise best seller has been a shiny but soft toilet seat.

The brainchild of Kerrytown developer Art Carpenter, Bathsheba is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kitchenport, the Kerrytown cookware shop. The idea behind the store is to offer an alternative to unimaginative conventional plumbing fixtures supplied by plumbing contractors. Specialty ceramic tiles (including hand-painted Italian tiles) can also be ordered. In addition to being a retail shop for fixtures and bath accessories, Bathsheba also solicits contractual jobs and acts as a coordinating contractor to handle plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and tile setting, for a 10% fee on top of materials. A Bathsheba representative will supervise all the installation arrangements so the client doesn't even have to be home when the plumber comes.

•••

Six downtown buildings will probably be chemically cleaned within the next few weeks to remove paint and reveal the natural red brick. They include the old Earle Hotel and Del Rio bar on W. Washington, the Old Town bar and The Peaceable Kingdom on W. Liberty, the former Hopco-Denson hearing aid store at 330 S. Main, and possibly the Sugar Bin Bakery building at Main and W. Liberty, where racquetball courts will be installed by September.

Chemical cleaning is a non-abrasive alternative to sandblasting which does not damage the mortar or the protective crust of the brick. Demonstration patches by competing firms are now being made, and bids will be in soon. The property owners are going together to get a more favorable rate on the job.

Myra Jones is renovating 220 N. Fifth Ave., erected in 1845.

•••

The distinguished old red brick house at 220 N. Fifth Avenue at Catherine is being thoroughly renovated by **Myra Jones,** a realtor and history buff. A one-bedroom apartment will be upstairs and an office, potentially for lawyers, downstairs. Jones researched the house's history and discovered that it was built in 1845 by Jacob Vandewarker, a shoemaker who had a store and a factory on Detroit Street. Jones is keeping the feel of the old house, inside and out. Room layouts are unaltered. Some new doors and mouldings have been custom milled to duplicate original woodwork that had previously been removed.

•••

A site plan for the proposed **Michigan Bell employee parking lot** was denied by a 10-1 vote of City Council last month. The decision was tougher than the final vote suggests: Bell employees had lobbied vigorously on behalf of the lot, while the city's Planning Department and Commission both had recommended denial on the grounds that parking on Liberty Street was clearly incompatible with development of the street as a pedestrian link between downtown and the campus. Historic preservation arguments for saving the 132-year-old structure at 321 W. Liberty, which has not been officially protected with a historic district designation, seemed to backfire and anger more councilpeople than they convinced, including Jerry Bell, who said, "They say this is an historic building. Well, George Washington didn't sleep here." Several Republicans had given signs of approving the site plan because they felt the city itself had failed to folow through on its promises to provide adequate off-street parking. But when Ron Trowbridge pointed out that 37 cars were already parked on the property, and that the proposed lot would eliminate 24 apartments for a net increase of only 50 parking spaces, the tide seemed to turn. Cheers went up from people living in the threatened houses, and only Wendell Allen ultimately voted to approve the site.

•••

"A Moveable Feast" will soon open in the Kerrytown Food Mart where the Strudel House was located until it closed last month. The new enterprise is a different idea for Ann Arbor, a combination catering-carryout-cafe specializing in elegant food: pastries, cakes, tortes and mousses for dessert; authentic French bread and croissants baked in the basement kitchen; plus luncheon dishes and appetizers like quiches, pates, poached and sauced salmon, galantine of duck, and other glories of the buffet table. **Ricky Agranoff** and **Pat Korten** are the "cooks extraordinaire" behind the venture, according to co-partner **Pat Pooley,** who places herself and other partners **Barbara Eldersveld** and **Alice Whitney** in the category of ordinary good cooks and people who like to eat. Agranoff, a graduate of the prestigious French cooking school L'Ecole des Trois Gourmands, has run a well-known catering service from her home for years.

"A Moveable Feast" is aimed at busy people who appreciate sophisticated cooking but don't have time for the labor-intensive production of special dishes for entertaining. If you order in advance from A Moveable Feast, you can pick up an appetizer, main course, dessert, or entire dinner party, and get simple instructions for heating and serving. Full service catering (from providing a bartender to cleaning up) will also be provided. The range of delicacies offered over the counter will necessarily be limited: four or five tables will allow customers to sample food or enjoy a light lunch with a cup of coffee or tea. Also in the works is a delivery service for box or bag lunches which might include, for instance, a smoked turkey sandwich, pate and French bread, pastry, and a piece of fruit. Prices will not be astronomical, Pooley says, and the atmosphere, though elegant, will be friendly rather than snobbish and affected.

•••

The city takes too long to review building projects, according to a study of the development review process conducted by Community Planning and Management. CPM is the city administrator's research staff. Departmental review deadlines are not enforced, CPM says, so expensive delays for the developer occur, and construction costs more. Sometimes policies of the nine different departments involved in the review process even conflict.

As a result of the study, City Administrator Sy Murray recommends that all projects which meet building code requirements be approved automatically within 120 days unless the Planning Commission or City Council specifically reject them.

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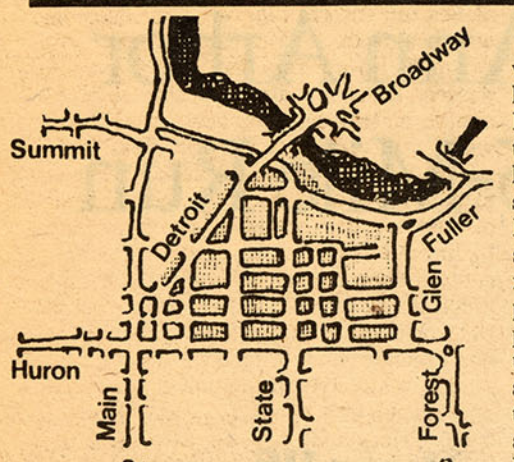

The N³ Neighborhood of A²

Recent developments have resulted in a complicated situation involving the **Campus Inn, the Historic District Commission,** and the newly-formed **Near Northeast Neighborhood group.** The Campus Inn has acquired or optioned three adjacent properties, and that became a catalyst for a complex chain of events and actions which cannot be treated with justice in a paragraph or two. Next month's issue of the Ann Arbor Observer will examine issues in historic preservation and central city residential neighborhoods by focussing on the Near Northeast Neighborhood.

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After four years as director of **Ann Arbor Tomorrow, Guy Larcom** has retired, and **Carol Sullivan,** previously his assistant, has assumed his position. Larcom, who was City Administrator from 1954 to 1973, will remain in Ann Arbor and be available for consultation on AAT projects.

Larcom says he's heartened by the burgeoning increase in small-scale private improvements downtown, but discouraged by the inability of local elected representatives to put aside partisan differences and get behind downtown projects that will indirectly benefit the entire community. Younger leaders like Sullivan (who is 31 and a doctoral student in the Urban and Regional Planning Program) have an advantage, Larcom says, because they have a new, fresh approach to problems.

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The **West Side Neighborhood** area west of Main Street is about to get its long-awaited **street trees.** Krimboli Landscape Contractors will plant 46 trees in all. The list includes little leaf lindens on Ashley, Norway maples to shade the glaring concrete side of the big First Street parking structure, and Marshall seedless ash on W. Washington near First. A clump of red oaks will be planted on the Ann Arbor Railroad property forming the southwest portion of the Liberty and First intersection, and an old urban favorite, the London plane tree, will make an unusual Ann Arbor appearance in the 100 blocks of W. Washington and W. Liberty at the alley intersection. Paving bricks reclaimed from Ann Arbor streets will be laid in 6" of sand at the base of the trees. Brick and sand, which are porous, allow water to get to the roots while keeping out most weeds.

Landscape architect Claire Williams of Preservation Urban Design has coordinated the project, with the advice of City Forester Bob Tate. A $35,000 CDBG revenue-sharing grant covers the trees (cost: $13,000 including planting) and lighting improvements.

•••

First Down has recently opened at 213 S. Main, in the former Lucky Drugs store. It offers "Colorado Comfort" down-filled parkas, vests, pillows, and comforters, and Frostline kits, at discount prices. More brands will be added in fall, according to manager Raelyn McGillivray. Ann Arbor is the first branch of the First Down firm from East Lansing.

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Jason's, the new State Street ice cream parlor, has opened in the vastly more cheerful former quarters of VIP Discount Drugs at 213 S. State. The atmosphere is airy, with large plants and wire ice cream chairs and tables. Jason's sells Miller's Ice Cream, Fannie Farmer candies in bulk and by the piece and frozen yogurt.

•••

Johnny's Steak and Onion, 209 S. Fourth, also carries frozen yogurt, but the manager, Don Daniels, says that "90% of our business is our steak and onion sandwich." It's chopped steak and grilled onions with a secret sauce made on the premesis by Ozzie Minidis (co-owner Chris Minidis' mother). The "Johnny" in the sandwich shop's name is for the other owner, John Kokales of the Capitol Market.

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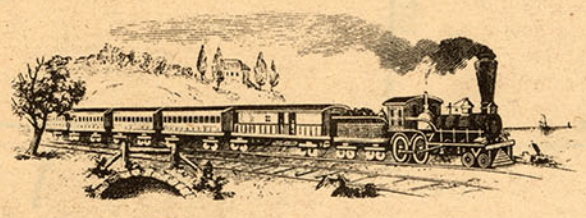

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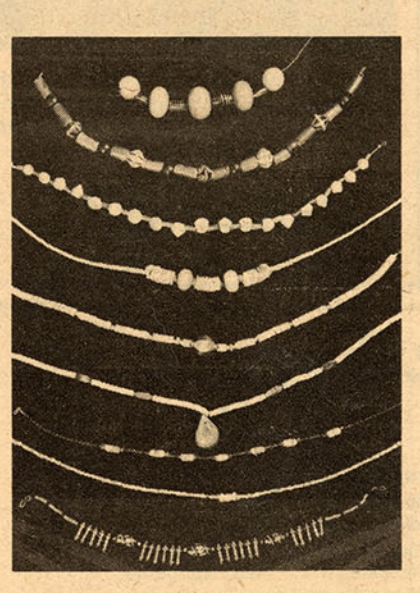

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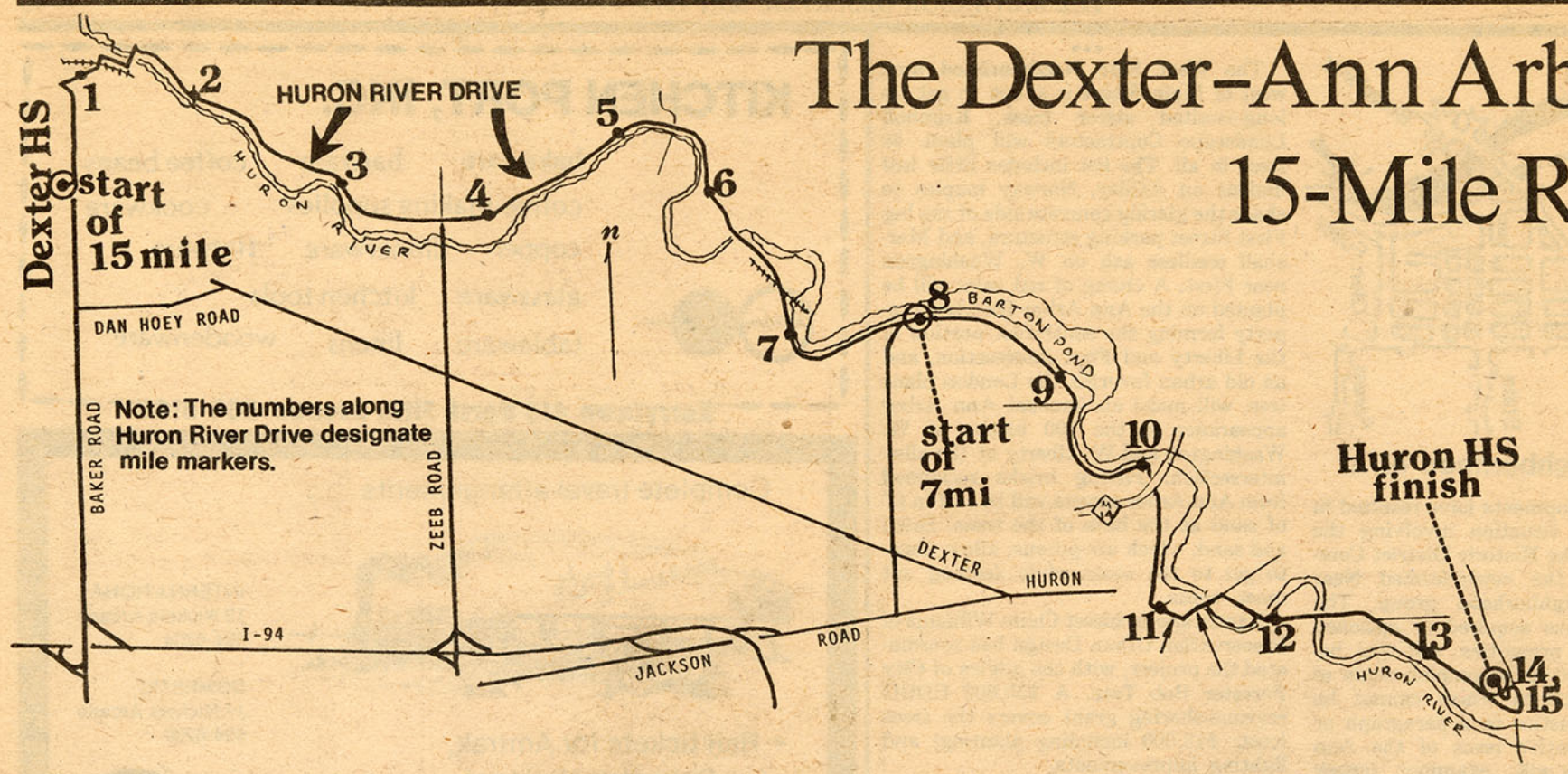
The Dexter-Ann Arbor 15-Mile Run



The long-distance runner: the image conjured up is of a guant, steel-willed individual who endures great pain in an effort to come in first. The Dexter-Ann Arbor 15-mile Run, an annual event sponsored by the Ann Arbor Track Club, has been designed for a different breed of runner: the growing number of people in the area who are getting into long-distance running for fun and health.

Running any distance at all is obviously agony when you're out of shape. But with a few months of training, says Dr. Fred Holappa, you can get to the point where a daily ten-mile run can become a "positive addiction." And the addiction comes not merely from the healthful effects of this exercise. There is an actual euphoria—a "natural high"—that experienced runners have, beginning about a half-hour into their run. Holappa, who runs ten miles during lunch time each day, reports he feels energized for the rest of the day. And there are great benefits to one's health from this kind of exercise, says Holappa, who is team physician of the Ann Arbor Track Club and a specialist in sports medicine.

The 15-mile run, which will be held on May 28 beginning at 9:00 a.m., is the "spring biggie" for runners in the area, according to Ann Arbor Track Club president Elmo Morales. This will be the fourth annual occurrence of the event. Last year, 303 people competed in the 15-mile run, and another 160 completed the simultaneous 7-mile run.

One of the run's attractions is the beautiful course, which begins in Dexter and winds along the Huron River Drive to Ann Arbor. The scenic setting fits the low-keyed image of the rice, viewed by its sponsors as more of a pleasurable event for participants than a grueling marathon. Explains Morales, "A lot of people think we ought to have a marathon, which is 26 miles. My contention is that that is going beyond ordinary limits. You've got to be a serious runner to do that. At about 18-20 miles, everybody begins to reach physiological limitations. From then on it's pure pain, whereas the 15-mile length is long enough without bringing you to your absolute ends."

Even though the organizers of the run are only publicizing it locally, the four-year-old run has already gotten the attention of running enthusiasts throughout the country. Morales explained the popularity of the Dexter-Ann Arbor run: "Lots of people run it because it's a well-organized race along a very pretty route. We don't push the award thing too much, although we recognize the winners of both sexes in five different ranges with trophies and other prizes.

If you are already an experienced runner, you can pick up entry forms for the May 28th run at several places: any branch of Ann Arbor Bank, Stein and Goetz Sports Shop, Moe Sport's Shop, and The Athlete Shop.

If you would like to get into running, the Ann Arbor Track Club has weekly 'runs for fun' during the summer at which beginners are welcome. Contact Elmo Morales (761-3334) for details. •

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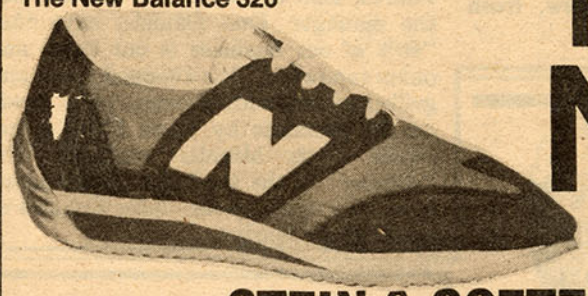
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